

MINUTES
CITY OF WOODSTOCK
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
July 13, 2020
City Council Chambers

A Special Meeting of the City of Woodstock Environmental Commission was called to order by Chairperson Erica Poremba at 5:35 PM on Monday, July 13, 2020 at the Community Gardens Site – 2495 Castle Road, Woodstock, IL.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Laurie Kacmar, Ed Ellinghausen, Bill Donato, Steve Wenzel, and Chairperson Erica Poremba.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: none.

STAFF PRESENT: Public Works Department Director Jeff Van Landuyt and Executive Assistant/Chief Deputy City Clerk Jane Howie.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Motion by S. Wenzel, second by E. Ellinghausen, to accept the Minutes from the March 5, 2020 Regular Meeting. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, S. Wenzel and Chair E. Poremba. Nays: none. Absentees: none. Abstentions: L. Kacmar and B. Donato. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

Motion by B. Donato, second by L. Kacmar, to accept the Minutes from the June 4, 2020 Regular Meeting. Ayes: L. Kacmar, E. Ellinghausen, B. Donato, and S. Wenzel. Nays: none. Absentees: none. Abstentions: Chair E. Poremba. Motion carried. Minutes accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The neighbor across the street from the garden site stopped over to ask that vehicles not be parked across the street from his driveway as this causes difficulty for him to get his truck into his driveway.

COMMISSION COMMENT: None.

TRANSMITTALS

1. None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Comments on drone flight videos over Castle Road Park by The Land Conservancy
Commissioners loved the drone flight videos and asked if a video can be shared on the Gardens Facebook page. S. Wenzel will find out what's needed to share the videos on social media.

Commissioners expressed their interests in expanding the garden to allow for additional garden beds in 2021. They discussed several locations for the beds along with locations for the addition of a gazebo, shed, composting area, and pollinator garden. They also talked about the possibility of adding another community garden on the north side of Woodstock; however, research would have

to be done to determine possible sites. S. Wenzel mentioned that he'll talk to someone at The Land Conservancy to ask about removing invasive species and trees in the back of the garden site. There is also a need to get that back area mowed and the interior of the garden site weed-whipped, which J. Van Landuyt said Public Works could take care of. Commissioners are interested in using that space to install fourteen new garden beds for the 2021 gardening season.

Commissioners are interested in getting the fence painted. There was a suggestion to hold a painting event in the spring of 2021 and invite gardeners to volunteer to assist.

2. Community Gardens Events – Harvest Celebration?

Commissioners are interested in hosting a sort of Harvest Fest at the garden site sometime this fall, with social distancing in place and following all guidelines set by the State of Illinois.

Commissioners asked J. Van Landuyt to find out if they still need to gather statistics on the success of the reusable bag initiative, or, due to the pandemic, if the due date for this information can be extended. Mr. Van Landuyt said he'd look into this and get back to the Commissioners with information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Conversation regarding Master Plan for Castle Road Park/Community Greens
Nothing was discussed; this item will be added to a future agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Invitation to Gardeners for conversation/feedback/review of draft Master Plan – 8/6/2020
2. Preliminary Discussion about Updating of Environmental Master Plan – begin 8/6/2020
3. Ellinghausen Brine Study
4. Plastic Straws – Invite speaker in December? – develop ordinance in Summer 2021
5. Master Plan for Castle Road Park/Community Greens

ADJOURN: To a Regular Meeting Thursday, August 6, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

Motion by S. Wenzel, second by B. Donato, to adjourn this regular meeting of the Environmental Commission to the next regular meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2020. Ayes: L. Kacmar, E. Ellinghausen, B. Donato, S. Wenzel and Chair E. Poremba. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absentees: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie,
Chief Deputy City Clerk